

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**JUNE 26, 2003**

---

A meeting of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education was held at the Shepard Building - 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903 and convened at 5:10 p.m.

---

**In Attendance:**

J. DiPrete, J. Gaines, P. Guida, C. Callahan, M. Mancieri and Ana Morgan.

**Public Remarks**

Sharon Morenon, Providence School Librarian addressed the Board regarding the funding of the Providence Public School libraries. She told members that school libraries are an essential component of the total educational program and that thanks to the Quality Zone Academy bonds the libraries (particularly the elementary school libraries) are all being equipped to 21<sup>st</sup> century standards. However there are problems within some Providence schools concerning equal access to the library. Because of scheduling and staffing problems some students do not have access to the school library. She asked that the Board assist in urging Providence administrators, principals and teachers to enforce the BEP and library frameworks that have been approved by the Board of Regents.

**Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman DiPrete officially welcomed the new Regent Ana Morgan and reported on the following:

- On May 27, he attended the Teacher Mentoring Program Exhibition at the State House;
- June 5 - 7, he, Commissioner McWalters and Regent Patrick Guida attended the Education Commission of the States Conference in Denver to discuss the provisions of the NCLB. They discussed how the various states are responding to the law. Mr. DiPrete reported that Rhode Island seems to be in line with the rest of the country.
- June 18-19 attended a mini-conference that the Business Education Roundtable hosted.
- June 23, Senator Reed held a brief mini-conference at the Department regarding adult education. The Senator is looking at re-authorizing the current program.
- June 24, attended a RIDE sponsored conference that focused on the high school regs. Regent Callahan was recognized for all the wonderful work she has done.
- Finally, he congratulated Regent J. Gaines on being honored as an outstanding educator by the Urban League at their recent annual meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOVED AND SECONDED: That, the minutes of the May 22, 2003 be approved as presented.**

**VOTE: Approved unanimously.**

Regents Minutes  
June 26, 2003  
Page 2 of 6

**Approval of Members to the Central Falls Board of Trustees**

The Chairman of the Board of Regents State and Charter Schools Committee, Gary Grove told the members of the Board that the State and Charter Schools Committee had reviewed the nominee recommendations from the Commissioner for the Central Falls Board of Trustees. After a brief review of the process for selecting the nominees it was...

**MOVED AND SECONDED: That, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve “Gus” Silva for a two-year term, William Sanchez for a two-year term, Joel Roseman for a three year term, Bob Canavan for a three-year term, Ana Cecelia Rosado for a two-year term, Mary Lou Perez for a three year term, and Representative Joseph Faria for a two year term as Members to the Central Falls Board of Trustees; and Approve the Appointment of Bob Canavan as Chairman, as per the Recommendation of the State and Charter Schools Committee.**

**VOTE: Approved unanimously.**

**Approval of Members to the Rhode Island School for the Deaf Board of Trustees**

Chairman Grove presented the names of the nominees of the Board of Trustees to the Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

**MOVED AND SECONDED: That, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve Carol Dorros, Philip Wheeler, Travis Zellner, and Steven Florio as Members of the Rhode Island School for the Deaf Board of Trustees; and Approve the Terms and Rotation Cycles as presented.**

**VOTE: Approved unanimously.**

**Approval of Members to the William M. Davies Jr. Career and Technical High School Board of Trustees**

**MOVED AND SECONDED: That, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve James Bone and Deborah Lopes as Members of the William M. Davies Jr. Career and Technical High School Board of Trustees.**

**VOTE: Approved unanimously.**

**Acceptance of Two Proposals on Teacher Preparation for Purpose of Public Hearing**

Chair of the Regents' School Administrator and Teacher Quality and Support Committee, Jo Eva Gaines gave the group a brief overview of the proposed regulation on teacher preparation for non-traditional certification program guidelines for purpose of public hearing, as outlined in enclosure 8. Ms. Gaines also reviewed the time line of the proposed regulations, as follows:

Regents Minutes  
June 26, 2003  
Page 3 of 6

- Hearings to take place by August 1<sup>st</sup> 2003;
- then back to the Regents' Teacher Quality Committee for review in September 2003;
- Additional hearings will be held after that date, if needed.

Regents Callahan and Mancieri voiced concerns about the lack of specificity of the regulations, especially concerning the mentoring piece. The Commissioner told board members that the biggest challenge will be to get resources for those districts that can't afford to implement the regs.

**MOVED AND SECONDED: That, the Board of Regents Accept, for Purpose of Public Hearing, the Proposal on Teacher Preparation for Non-Traditional Certification Program Guidelines**

**VOTE: Approved unanimously.**

Board discussion continued on the second motion (approval of standards for educator preparation programs). Members expressed their support of establishing a strong articulation piece between the elementary/secondary education and higher education. David Abbott explained that the work on the proposed standards began in 1992 and were developed by a cross section of the Rhode Island education community. Currently the standards have been piloted at Brown University, Providence College, the Principals Residency Network Program, Roger Williams University, Rhode Island School of Design, Salve Regina University and the University of Rhode Island.

**MOVED AND SECONDED: That the Board of Regents Accept, for Purpose of Public Hearing, the Proposals on Standards for the Approval of Educator Preparation Programs, as Presented.**

**VOTE: Approved unanimously.**

**Election of NASBE President, President-elect, Secretary-Treasurer and Area Director**  
Vice-Chairman, Joe Eva Gaines gave the Board a brief overview of the agenda item and the background of every candidate.

**MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Election of Robert Lazard, President; Gary Waters, President Elect; Keith Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer; Jo Eva Gaines, Northeastern Director for the NASBE 2004 elections.**

**VOTE: Approved unanimously.**

Regents Minutes  
June 26, 2003  
Page 4 of 6

### **Grade Level Expectations Update**

Diane Schaefer, RIDE Director of Instruction reviewed the time-line on the Grade Level Expectations, as follows:

- May 2003 - Draft Documents
- July 15 - Primary Review Team and District Review Process Feedback
- July 17 & 18 - Revise Draft GLEs
- July 30 & 31 - New England teams meets to determine next steps for assessments
- Summer 2003 - Begin to develop assessments
- Fall 2003 - New England Cadre of Trainers for ELA and Math Develop GLEs for Pre K-2 & 9-12 Mathematics & English language arts and Elementary, Middle and High School Science
- 2003-2004 - Cadre of Trainers provide professional development on GLEs

The group voiced their support of the proposed regs providing for “common expectations across districts”. They will also serve as a "blue print" for developing assessments. The Regents also discussed professional development activities that might be offered to support districts implement the new regs.

**Reading First and Personal Literacy Plans** - Diane Schaefer explained to the group that

under the No Child Left Behind Act, all districts will be required to do personal literacy plans for students in grades 1-3. This grant will support three districts to develop personal literacy plans for their students. There was an extensive discussion about how students' day will be reorganized to "fit in" everything that they need to do.

**Reading First** - Rhode Island's plan has not been approved. The feds don't like

Rhode Island's reading program – the DRP (Developing Reading Program); so any state using this program wasn't funded. Rhode Island is currently discussing how to re-write the application and how to use the department's reading fellows to assist schools. They also are focusing on how to get districts to take on the responsibility to support their own Reading First Schools.

The feds are also questioning how RIDE will have the manpower to assist all of the districts. The use of mandated reading programs vs. voluntary programs was also discussed.

### **Physical Education Framework**

Diane Schaefer presented the Physical Education Framework, as attached. She told members that the framework had been developed in conjunction with the Department of Health to address some student health problems, including diabetes and child obesity.

The Frameworks will be sent out to all districts. Ms. Schaefer explained plans for professional development workshops.

### **Budget Update**

Assistant Commissioner David Abbott reviewed the highlights of the FY 2004 budget, as follows:

- Re: State Aid - Adds \$15M to education aid and provides at least 1.75% increase per district (Providence get 3.6% increase);  
Hope high school retains \$600,000 for progressive support and intervention, makes changes in the textbook reimbursement procedures and allocations and makes other “technical changes”;  
Requires a tax study commission and an education funding study commission;  
Student language assistance investment fund increased to \$35M.
- Re: Housing Aid – Carries forward the \$1.5M increase for FY 2004 aid and adds \$125,000 for Burrillville to lessen the impact of a statutory change regarding tax treaties;  
Directs the department to conduct a study on school construction costs by January 1, 2004;  
Technical amendments to housing aid and interest on school bonds.
- Re: Teachers Retirement – Moves funds for retiree health benefits back to the Department of Administration budget;  
Restores the cut to the teacher retirement contribution proposed by the Governor with his 2% employee contribution increase (\$1,313,349).
- Re: State Schools – MET Reduces the increase to the MET School by \$220,000;  
DEAF reduces the increase to Deaf by \$22,000.  
DAVIES reduces the increase to Davies by \$39,053.  
CENTRAL FALLS Gives a 3.5% increase.
- Program Operations – Driver’s Ed – Moved to CCRI;  
I-Plans – Includes \$700,000 for I-Plans and other related activities;  
COZ – funding of \$400,000 included.

- Legislative Grants – Restores \$25,426 to Volunteers in Public Schools, \$15,000 to “We the People”, \$36,338 to Community Service Grants.
- Capital Projects - \$60,000 for the Chariho well, \$50,000 for security systems, \$6,520 for alarm systems.
- School Breakfast – Assigns the RI Dept. of Ed. the responsibility of administering the \$700,000 school breakfast program.
- Personnel – 2 general funded FTE cut; turnover figure increased by \$127,616, Davies teacher contract increase unfunded.

#### **Commissioner’s Report**

- RE: Certification – Department staff working to process certification applications as quickly as possible, however, because of lack of staff, certifications are 6 to 8 weeks behind.
- Director of Finance Position: The selection committee will be interviewing the final two candidates this week and will be making a recommendation within the next couple of days.
- Robert Felner is leaving URI to accept a position at Louisville. Unsure of how this move will affect the work that his office does for us with data.
- Attended the second meeting with Hope High School. Staff has organized and kids have been assigned. A summer institute planned - 80-85% participation expected.
- Department staff has been working with the School for the Deaf Trustees. There will be a training session for them and the new Central Falls Board in late summer.

#### **Executive Session**

**There was no executive session.**

#### **Adjournment**

With unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.